Experimentelle Studien zur Individualpsychologie. AXEL OEHRN. Inaug. Dis. Dorpat, 1889.

Simplification is a thing much to be desired in psychic measurements, and until such can be secured, their application which might be considerable must remain comparatively limited. The point of Oehrn's thesis is the demonstration of the applicability of a few simple methods—not all new, but never before applied on quite this scale. His subjects counted letters from the printed page, added single syllabled digits to 100, wrote at dictation and read through successive periods of 5 minutes, and committed to memory numbers and meaningless syllables, the experiments generally lasting 2 hours and the subject working at the top of his speed. These processes, though more complex than those measured in reaction-time experiments, are simple enough to lead to interesting and rather regular results. The following table shows the average time on ten subjects in thousandths of a second for a single stage of the different tasks, *e. g.* counting one letter, reading one syllable, etc.:—

	Average Time in 0.001's Sec.	Max.	Min.	Average of Mean Variations in per cents.
Counting single letters,	406	530	317	4.2
" letters by threes,	323	440	209	5.0
Adding pairs of numbers,	1244	1533	754	4.6
Writing single letters,	435	603	331	2.6
Reading single syllables,	138	172	116	3.4

	Average Time in Seconds.	Max.	Min.	Average of Mean Variations in per cents.
Learning 12-place numbers,	9.6	20	4.2	14.7
" 12 nonsense syllables,	11.8	21.4	7.89	27.4

The author's analysis of these processes and the comparison of his results with those of Cattell, Berger, Dehio and others, must be consulted in the original. Of more importance, however, than these absolute results are the relative ones which bear upon attention and the effects of practice and fatigue. The former is studied in the mean variation which Buccola has aptly called "the dynamometer of attention." Reading and writing, for example (see table above,) are almost automatic in educated persons, while the learning of nonsense syllables requires the most vigorous voluntary attention. By comparing the amount of work accomplished in successive periods during the two hours the effects of practice and fatigue are discovered. The typical curve shows an ascending phase in which practice more than balances fatigue, quickly followed in general by a descending phase in which fatigue more than balances practice. From this there are not a few variations, mostly explicable by changes in the three factors (attention, practice and fatigue) from which the curve results. Fatigue announces itself by irregularities even before the summit of the curve, but these again disappear as the subject becomes too tired even to "spurt." The relative gain through practice is less and less as practice increases, as has before been shown by the experiments of Guicciardi and Cionini. The last chapter of the pamphlet is devoted to individual differences, and though several are clearly demonstrated, the number of persons studied was too small for generalization. Among other suggestive points may be mentioned the evidence for a 24-hour periodicity in capacity for intellectual work; of the two persons tested one was at his best in the evening, the other in the morning.